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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, June 18, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended June 13 totaled an estimated 17.2 billion ton-miles, 4.9 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The decline was primarily attributable to the impact of the United Mine Workers' strike, which did not end until June 8.

Cumulative volume for the first 24 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 413.7 billion ton-miles, 2.5 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended June 13 totaled 415,629 cars, 7.7 percent below 1980, but 6.3 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 12.3 percent in the East, 6.8 percent in the South, and 5.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 12 of the 21 commodity groups were down, with coal loadings off 30,770 cars, or 25.0 percent. Fifteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended June 6 totaled 34,503 cars, up 11.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 61,334 trailers and/or containers, up 8.6 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 23 weeks of the year was 739,794 cars, 1.8 percent lower than last year, and 1,341,410 trailers and/or containers, down 1.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 6/13/81:

	Loadings in Week ended June 13, 1981	Change from Corresponding Week 1980		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	25,182	D 2,279	8.3	I 2,844	12.7
Other farm products	4,489	D 99	2.2	D 161	3.5
Metallic ores	36,120	I 2,875	8.6	I 2,116	6.2
Coal	92,175	D 30,770	25.0	I 25,758	38.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,220	D 2,633	16.6	D 931	6.6
Nonmetallic minerals	14,641	D 1,632	10.0	D 210	1.4
Grain mill products	13,926	D 3,056	18.0	D 1,408	9.2
Food and kindred products	15,359	D 2,668	14.8	D 839	5.2
Primary forest products	18,437	D 2,357	11.3	D 713	3.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,413	D 185	2.2	D 222	2.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,259	D 1,417	6.9	D 1,115	5.5
Chemicals and allied products	26,280	I 683	2.7	I 504	2.0
Petroleum products	5,010	D 569	10.2	D 163	3.2
Stone, clay and glass products	14,115	D 1,232	8.0	D 493	3.4
Coke	7,388	I 2,658	56.2	I 354	5.0
Metals and products	16,148	I 1,303	8.8	D 949	5.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,295	I 4,167	25.8	D 318	1.5
Waste and scrap materials	12,770	I 1,513	13.4	D 157	1.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,130	I 211	2.1	D 49	0.5
All other carloads	42,051	I 795	1.9	I 950	2.3
LCL traffic	221	I 37	20.1	D 21	8.7
Total Cars Loaded	415,629	D 34,655	7.7	I 24,777	6.3
Corresponding week of 1980	450,284				

	1981	1980	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (24 weeks)	9,877,549	10,584,997	D 6.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
23 Weeks cumulative	396.5	406.2	D 2.4
Week ended June 13	17.2	18.1	D 4.9
24 Weeks cumulative	413.7	424.3	D 2.5

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